



TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

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FARM FACTS

Debra K. Kenerson
State Statistician

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Tennessee Farmers Report their 2001 Planting Intentions

Producers plan to grow more cotton this year but corn, soybean, and tobacco acreage are all expected to decrease from the previous year, according to a recent survey by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers across the Volunteer State were asked about their crop acreage plans for 2001 on a March 1 Planting Intentions Survey. Total **cotton** acreage is forecast at 600,000, up 30,000 acres from the previous two years and the highest level in the State since 1995. Producers have been keeping an eye on commodity prices and many believe cotton gives them the best chance financially this year. **Soybean** acreage is expected to be 1.05 million acres, 11 percent below the previous year and the fewest acres since 1995. High input costs and disappointing soybean prices are the leading causes for the expected acreage cut. The high cost of nitrogen fertilizer relative to a year ago is one of the factors leading to the expected decline in the State's **corn** acreage. As of the first of

March, 640,000 acres of corn are expected to be planted throughout the State, 10,000 acres less than a year ago. Normal crop rotation and a small increase in **sorghum** acreage are also reasons for the expected decline. **Burley** tobacco growers plan to harvest 34,000 acres in 2001, the lowest acreage since 1927. Debra Kenerson, State Statistician for Tennessee, explained that the survey results are a snapshot as of March 1, and are subject to change. "This survey is our first look at what farmers intend to grow during the upcoming crop year. However, economic changes and weather conditions both play major roles in the final outcome."

Soybean Acreage Expected to Decline in 2001

Tennessee soybean acreage is expected to decline 130,000 acres in 2001 to a total of 1.05 million. Some of the acreage loss is expected to shift to cotton, but many farmers reported that they may not plant some of their marginal land due to high input costs. Another reason for the expected decrease could be the fear of another late summer drought. Double-cropped soybean yields have been down significantly the last two years and with high costs of production and low price expectations, some producers may cut back on their acreage following wheat. Conversely, if farmers are unable to plant corn and cotton due to adverse weather in the spring, some of this acreage could ultimately fall back into soybeans due to its much wider planting window.

Corn Down Slightly, Sorghum Increases

Corn acreage for 2001 is forecast at 640,000, down 10,000 acres from last year. Normal crop rotation and high nitrogen fertilizer costs are the main factors given for the acreage decrease. In addition, some growers have indicated they will plant more sorghum this year. Total sorghum acreage for 2001 is forecast at 30,000, up 5,000 acres from last year and the highest level in the State since 1994. Field preparation has been slowed recently due to cool, wet conditions, but planting of both crops should begin within the next few weeks.

Largest Cotton Acreage in Six Years

The State's cotton acreage is expected to increase by 30,000 acres in 2001 to a total of 600,000, the highest level since 1995. Favorable demand relative to other crops and positive results of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program are some of the driving forces behind the increase.

Program Changes Dictating Decline in Tobacco Acreage

Burley tobacco is expected to decline to 34,000 acres in 2001, the smallest acreage in 74 years. The basic quota will be up from 2000 for burley farms, but the effective quota is down. Expected high lease rates, such as experienced last year, also contributed to the expected acreage decline. Dark tobacco acreage is expected to drop as a direct result of the cut in the 2001 acreage allotment. Type 22, Eastern Dark-Fired acreage is forecast at 6,100, down 1,500 acres from last year and the lowest level in the State since 1988. Type 23, Western Dark-Fired is forecast at 500 acres, the lowest acreage since 1990. Type 35, Dark Air-Cured is forecasted at 620 acres, down 70 acres from 2000.

Dry Fall Conditions Lead to Wheat Acreage Decrease

Dry conditions during September and October of 2000 delayed winter wheat seedings and then wet weather in November and December ultimately halted additional plantings. Consequently, weather was a major factor in the acreage decrease in 2001. Total acreage, at 520,000, is 30,000 acres below the previous year. The crop is currently progressing well and growers have been busy top-dressing between rain showers.

Record Hay Acreage Expected Again

Hay producers intend to harvest 2.04 million acres this year, virtually unchanged from last year. If realized, this will be a new State record. Livestock producers reported that cattle are in good condition coming out of winter. Most areas of the State experienced an unusually cold December but conditions returned to normal for the remainder of the winter months. Most areas reported adequate hay supplies this winter due to fairly normal weather and record-breaking hay production of last year.

Planting Intentions: Tennessee and United States, March 1, 2001, with Comparisons

Crop	1999	2000	Intended 2001 ¹	2001/2000
Tennessee	1,000 Acres			Percent
Corn	630	650	640	98
Sorghum	20	25	30	120
Winter wheat	500	550	520	95
Soybeans	1,250	1,180	1,050	89
Cotton, all	570	570	600	105
Tobacco, all ²	63.17	51.92	41.22	79
E. Dark-fired (22)	7.00	7.60	6.10	80
W. Dark-fired (23)	0.57	0.63	0.50	79
Burley (31)	55.00	43.00	34.00	79
One-sucker (35)	0.60	0.69	0.62	90
Hay ²	1,880	2,035	2,040	100
United States				
Corn	77,386	79,545	76,693	96
Sorghum	9,288	9,195	9,368	102
Winter wheat	43,331	43,348	41,336	95
Soybeans	73,730	74,496	76,657	103
Cotton, all	14,873.5	15,536.5	15,614.0	100
Tobacco, all ²	647.16	485.73	457.67	94
E. Dark-fired (22)	10.75	11.70	9.30	79
W. Dark-fired (23)	4.07	4.43	3.50	79
Burley (31)	303.60	198.40	182.50	92
One-sucker (35)	3.45	3.79	3.42	90
Hay ²	63,220	59,854	63,771	107

¹ Intended planting for 2001. ² Acres harvested.

Biotechnology Varieties

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducts the March Agricultural Survey in all States, each year. Randomly selected farmers across the United States are asked if they plant seed that, through biotechnology, is resistant to herbicides, insects, or both. The following table shows results of responses to those questions during the March 2001 Agricultural Survey. Herbicide resistant varieties only include those developed using biotechnology. Conventionally bred herbicide resistant varieties were excluded from the March survey. Insect resistant varieties include only those containing bacillus thuringiensis (Bt.). Stacked gene varieties include those containing biotech traits for both herbicide and insect resistance.

Biotechnology Varieties By Crop, United States, Percent of All Planted Acres, 2000-2001

Crop	Insect Resistant (Bt)		Herbicide Resistant		Stacked Gene Varieties		All Biotech Varieties	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Corn	18	16	6	7	1	1	25	24
Upland Cotton	15	13	26	28	20	23	61	64
Soybeans			54	63			54	63

Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., March 1, 2001 with Comparisons

Crop	Tennessee ¹			United States		
	Mar. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001	Mar. 1, 2000	Dec. 1, 2000	Mar. 1, 2001
1,000 Bushels						
On-Farm Stocks						
Corn	---	---	---	3,300,000	5,550,000	3,600,000
Wheat	---	---	---	424,680	623,420	389,750
Soybeans	---	---	---	730,000	1,217,000	780,000
Grain Sorghum	---	---	---	51,700	74,300	40,100
Oats	---	---	---	53,300	86,900	55,800
Off-Farm Stocks ²						
Corn	12,020	12,956	9,267	2,301,895	2,972,178	2,437,353
Wheat	4,918	7,893	3,930	991,841	1,181,666	949,824
Soybeans	3,006	6,995	2,379	665,986	1,022,791	624,821
Grain Sorghum	162	147	188	173,932	186,736	125,211
Oats	111	83	154	48,500	57,209	46,319
Total Stocks						
Corn	---	---	---	5,601,895	8,522,178	6,037,353
Wheat	---	---	---	1,416,521	1,805,086	1,339,574
Soybeans	---	---	---	1,395,986	2,239,791	1,404,821
Grain Sorghum	---	---	---	225,632	261,036	165,311
Oats	---	---	---	101,800	144,109	102,119

¹ Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. ² Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 2 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2001, was 58.8 million head. This was 2 percent above March 2000, but 1 percent below December 1, 2000.

Breeding inventory, at 6.24 million head, was up 1 percent from March 1, 2000, but down slightly from December 1, 2000. Market hog inventory, at 52.5 million head, was 2 percent above last year, but 1 percent below last quarter.

The December 2000-February 2001 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2 percent more than 2000, but 1 percent less than 1999. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 45 percent of the breeding herd.

The average pigs per litter was 8.78 pigs saved per litter for the December 2000-February 2001 period, compared to 8.76 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 8.90 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the March-May 2001 quarter, 1 percent above the actual farrowings during the same period in 2000, but 3 percent below 1999. Intended farrowings for June-August, at 2.92 million sows, are 1 percent above the same period in 2000, but slightly below 1999.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 32 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 31 percent last year.

Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee and United States, March 2001, with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Tennessee			United States		
		March 2000	February 2001	March 2001 ¹	March 2000	February 2001	March 2001 ¹
Dollars Per Unit							
Field Crops							
Winter Wheat	bu.	2.40	2.51	---	2.37	2.74	2.86
Corn	bu.	2.29	2.32	2.35	2.03	1.96	1.91
Cotton Lint	lb.	.458	.515	.515 ²	.477	.491	.496 ²
Tobacco	lb.	2.040	2.165	1.845	1.900	2.060	1.820
Soybeans	bu.	5.14	4.61	4.55	4.91	4.46	4.29
Livestock & Products							
All hogs	cwt.	40.40	37.70	---	41.70	39.10	45.10
Sows	cwt.	35.00	35.00	---	34.30	30.70	34.30
Barrow & gilts	cwt.	41.00	38.00	---	42.00	39.50	45.70
All beef cattle	cwt.	66.20	67.00	67.80	69.80	74.80	77.00
Steers/heifers	cwt.	85.00	83.00	85.00	73.40	78.90	81.10
Cows	cwt.	38.00	43.00	42.00	39.00	42.70	43.20
Calves	cwt.	104.00	100.00	105.00	109.00	109.00	111.00

¹ Mid-month. ² Based on purchases first half of month.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Q's and A's

Q: What is foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)?

A: FMD is a highly contagious and economically devastating disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer, and other cloven-hooved ruminants. Many affected animals recover, but the disease leaves them debilitated. FMD causes severe losses in the production of meat and milk. Because it spreads widely and rapidly and because it has grave economic as well as physical consequences, FMD is one of the animal diseases that livestock owners dread most. The disease does not affect food safety or humans.

Q: How do you get rid of foot-and-mouth disease?

A: The virus can be killed off by heat, low humidity, or some disinfectants. It is only rarely fatal, although it is more likely to kill very young animals. There is no cure for the disease, and it usually runs its course in 2 or 3 weeks with most animals recovering, although some animals take up to 6 months to fully recover.

Q: If most animals don't die, why go to such great lengths to eradicate it?

A: The disease is highly contagious with nearly 100 percent of exposed animals becoming infected. If the disease became widespread in any country there would be disastrous economic consequences. For example, the most serious effects of the disease in dairy cattle are loss of milk and yield.

For more information, call the APHIS Emergency Operations Center at (800) 940-6524 or e-mail: emoc@aphis.usda.gov. Current information on animal diseases and suspected outbreaks is also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>.

Source: USDA/APHIS Veterinary Services Factsheet, March 2001.